

Kids Home Initiative is a comprehensive solution to help children avoid or escape homelessness by assisting children and families regain secure and successful futures and stay in school.

## THE ISSUE

When students are not performing well in school, sometimes the source of the issue is not in the classroom. Too many students in our metro area switch schools multiple times during a school year because their family is homeless, putting them off track on their education and reducing their chances of a successful future. Homeless kids switch schools on average three or more times in a given school year, as their families are forced to move from place to place. Switching schools can result in increased difficulty keeping up with educational curriculum and reduced chances of graduating.

## UNITED WAY'S ROLE

United Way identified areas in Greater Atlanta with large numbers of at-risk students and researched the need, the context and what works to get students and their families back on track. Our efforts linked best practices from the nonprofit housing sector with resources from the public school system to develop a comprehensive solution, linking housing assistance, public school system resources and case management services to provide integrated support for the whole family. United Way then secured additional funding from private foundations that could pilot this new initiative. United Way partners with the The Siemer Institute, the school system, homeless service providers and other nonprofit organizations to help children avoid or escape homelessness, assisting families who are at risk of becoming homeless regain secure and successful futures.

## THE RESULTS

To date, the Kids Home Initiative has assisted more than 500 families by connecting them to case management services and working with them to establish housing stability, connection to benefits and emergency assistance.

